

CLAIMS

1. A well screen cover, comprising:
an elongated tube coupled to and surrounding an elongated well screen; and
an elongated channel formed in the tube and running substantially the
length of the tube.

2. The well screen cover of claim 1, wherein the elongated tube is formed of a
spirally wound strip of metal.

3. The well screen cover of claim 2, wherein the tube is perforated.

4. The well screen cover of claim 1, wherein the channel is formed to house a
fiber optic cable.

5. The well screen cover of claim 4, wherein the channel is formed to produce
a press fit between the fiber optic cable and the channel.

6. A well screen cover, comprising:
an elongated tube coupled to and surrounding an elongated filter medium,
the tube having an outer surface; and
an elongated channel coupled to the tube and running substantially the
length of the tube, the channel being open to the outer surface of the tube.

7. The well screen cover of claim 6, wherein the tube is formed of a spirally
wound strip of metal

8. The well screen cover of claim 7, wherein the tube is perforated.

9. The well screen cover of claim 6, wherein the channel is formed to house a
fiber optic cable.

10. The well screen cover of claim 9, wherein the channel is formed to produce
a press fit between a fiber optic cable and the channel.

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11. A method of manufacturing a well screen cover, comprising the steps of:
spirally winding a strip of metal to form an elongated cylindrical tube; and
pressing an elongated metal bar into the wall of the tube, the metal bar
being positioned along the length of the tube, substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of
the tube, to form an elongated channel in the tube, which runs substantially the length of
the tube.

12. A method of manufacturing a well screen cover, comprising the steps of:
providing an elongated tube having a wall that includes an inner surface
and an outer surface;
providing an elongated channel having two sidewalls;
coupling the sidewalls of the channel to the inner surface of the wall of the
tube; and
removing a portion of the wall between the two sidewalls.

13. A method of manufacturing a well screen cover, comprising the steps of:
providing an elongated tube having first and second tube ends and a wall
that includes an inner surface and an outer surface, the tube defining a longitudinal axis;
removing a portion of the wall of the tube to create a slot running
substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis, the slot having first and second slot ends, the
first slot end spaced-apart from the first tube end and the second slot end spaced-apart
from the second tube end; and
coupling an elongated channel to the inner surface of the tube, below the
slot.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of removing a portion
of the tube at the first tube end and removing a portion of the tube at the second tube end.

15. A method of manufacturing a well screen cover, comprising the steps of:
providing an elongated tube having a wall that includes an inner surface
and an outer surface, the tube defining a longitudinal axis;

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slitting the wall of the tube along the tube length, substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis;

prying the wall of the tube apart to widen the slit; and

inserting a plurality of rings coupled to a channel into the tube, the rings

5 lying adjacent to the inner surface of the tube, the channel positioned within the widened slit.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of welding the channel to the wall of the tube.

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